



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cabrillo National  
Monument

1800 Cabrillo  
Memorial Drive  
San Diego, CA 92106  
(619) 557-5450 phone  
(619) 222-8211 TTY  
(619) 226-6311 fax

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## CABRILLO News Release

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Contact: Karl M. Pierce, Public Information Officer  
Phone number: 619-523-4562  
Email: Karl\_Pierce@nps.gov  
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### A Whale of a Sea-lebration at Cabrillo National Monument

[Point Loma, San Diego, California] Superintendent Tom Workman invites everyone to a *Whale of a Sea-lebration* during the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Whale Watch Weekend and Intertidal Life Festival at Cabrillo National Monument, *San Diego's National Park*, on January 19-20, 2008, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This family-oriented event, which started in 1988 as Whale Watch Weekend, celebrates the return of the Pacific gray whales to Point Loma as part of their annual, round-trip migration from Baja California, Mexico to Alaska and the intertidal life found in the tidepool area on the monument's western shore. Said Workman, "this is a wonderful opportunity for families and visitors of all ages to see and learn about gray whales and other marine mammals, as well as the fascinating and sensitive intertidal area." Each year, an estimated 20,000 gray whales in the Eastern Pacific herd return from Alaskan feeding waters to warm, shallow lagoons in Baja California to give birth and find mates, making their 12,000 roundtrip migration the longest of any mammal in the world, while the tidepools of Cabrillo NM are among the best examples of intertidal habitat on the Southern California coast.

Whales and sea anemones will not be the only show for visitors, however. This exciting weekend will also feature guest speakers who will share their expertise on gray whales and other cetaceans and intertidal habitat and ecology. On Saturday, **Wayne Perryman**, Head of the Photogrammetry and Life History Section of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center and **Dr. David Weller** of the West Pacific Gray Whale Project of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center will present *Gray Whales, East and West: A Comparison of the Two Distinct Populations of Gray Whales* at 11:00 AM; Jessica Crance, a Master's Degree Candidate in the Marine Science

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Department at the University of San Diego, will present *Ecology of the Gray Whale: Implications for Conservation* at 12:00 Noon, **Saul Alarcón**, Wildlands Conservation Program Manager for Wild Coast, will present *Saving the Gray Whales of Baja California* at 2:00 PM, **Patricia Schick**, Science Writer at the Sea World Education Department, will present *Whale Diversity* at 3:00 PM and **Dr. Sam Ridgeway**, pioneering veterinarian, dolphin scientist and author of the book *Dolphin Doctor*, will present *Dolphin Doctor* at 4:00 PM. On Sunday, **Dr. Benjamin Pister**, Marine Biologist at Cabrillo National Monument, will present *Beyond the Tidepool Movie: Ecology and What to Look For* at 11:00 AM, **Jessica Crance** will reprise her presentation of *Ecology of the Gray Whale: Implications for Conservation* at 12:00 Noon, **Dr. Serge Dedina**, Executive Director of Wild Coast and author of the book *Saving the Gray Whale*, will present *Saving the Gray Whales of Baja California* at 2:00 PM and **Bernardo Alps**, President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Cetacean Society, will present *The Lagoons of Baja California* at 3:00 PM. On both days, there will also be presentations of *On the Edge of Land and Sea: The Tidepools of Cabrillo National Monument*, a National Park Service film, at 10:00 AM, *A Whale of a Tale*, an always popular puppet show about the gray whale migration, at 1:00 PM and, on Sunday only, the Jean-Michel Cousteau film *Gray Whale Obstacle Course* at 4:00 PM. Exhibitors will provide activities and information about whales, tidepools and their organizations both days in the visitor center breezeway and “View Building” from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Confirmed exhibitors are the Tidepool on Wheels from the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific (Saturday only), Birch Aquarium at Scripps, Sea World, the San Diego Maritime Museum, Wild Coast and San Diego Coast Keeper (Saturday Only). Park rangers and Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs) will assist visitors in spotting whales and exploring the monument’s tidepool area. The best locations to watch for whales are on the bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, so bring binoculars and dress warmly. Low tides of -1.4 will take place at 1:31 PM on Saturday and -1.7 at 2:14 PM on Sunday. There is very limited parking at the tidepools. However, free shuttles will run between the visitor center and the main tidepool parking area between 11:30 AM and 3:30 PM on Saturday and 12:15 PM to 4:00 PM. Visitors are encouraged to use public transportation. *On the Edge of Land and Sea: The Tidepools of Cabrillo National Monument* will be available for purchase on DVD, along with books, DVDs and educational materials about whales and tidepools, in monument’s bookstore, which is operated by our non-profit cooperating association, the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation,

which has supported interpretive, educational and scientific research activities at Cabrillo NM for more than 50 years.

All events are included with the regular park entrance fee of \$5.00 per vehicle and \$3.00 for motorcyclists, bicyclists and walk-ins (valid for 7 days from date of purchase). Holders of an America the Beautiful Interagency Pass or Cabrillo National Monument Annual Pass will be admitted free of charge upon presentation of their pass. Both passes may be purchased at Cabrillo NM.

Funding for the 2008 Whale Watch Weekend and Intertidal Life Festival is generously provided by the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation and the Hutsel Family.

Cabrillo National Monument, located on Point Loma at the south end of Catalina Boulevard, is open daily from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. Public transportation (#28 Bus) is available hourly to the upper area of the monument only, from the Old Town Transit Center. For additional information call 619-557-5450 or TTY 619-222-8211, or visit our web site at <http://www.nps.gov/cabr/>.

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